

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims so that they read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the ability of the immune system to mount an effective immune response ~~the potentiation of an immune response to an infectious disease~~ after the discontinuation of treatment for ~~the infection~~ ~~an infectious disease or prior to vaccination~~, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising IL-2 in an amount effective to maintain immune enhancement at least a normal concentration of circulating CD4 + T cells and an elevated concentration of CD8 + T cells and Natural Killer cells without eliciting toxicity of Grade 1 or higher as defined by the World Health Organization.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject has HCV.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the subject has undetectable plasma viral RNA levels.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the subject has discontinued IFN- $\alpha$  therapy or combination IFN- $\alpha$  and ribavirin therapy.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of IL-2 administered is about 100,000 to about 500,000 IU/m<sup>2</sup> body surface/day.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the IL-2 composition further comprises a pharmaceutical carrier.

Claims 11-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 18, wherein IL-2 administration continues at the time of vaccination.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 18, wherein IL-2 administration continues subsequent to vaccination.
17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of IL-2 administered is about 15,000 to about 1,500,000 IU/m<sup>2</sup> body surface/day.
18. (New) A method for enhancing the ability of the immune system to mount an effective immune response prior to vaccination comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising IL-2 in an amount effective to maintain at least a normal concentration of circulating CD4 + T cells and an elevated concentration of CD8 + T cells and Natural Killer cells without eliciting toxicity of Grade 1 or higher as defined by the World Health Organization.
19. (New) A method for enhancing the ability of the immune system to mount an effective immune response after the discontinuation of treatment for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, comprising administering to a subject a composition comprising IL-2 in an amount effective to maintain at least a normal concentration of circulating CD4 + T cells and an elevated concentration of CD8 + T cells and Natural Killer cells without eliciting toxicity of Grade 1 or higher as defined by the World Health Organization.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject has undetectable plasma viral RNA levels.
21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject has discontinued HAART.
22. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject has discontinued PART.
23. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the amount of IL-2 administered is about 100,000 to about 500,000 IU/m<sup>2</sup> body surface/day.

24. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the amount of IL-2 administered is about 15,000 to about 1,500,000 IU/m<sup>2</sup> body surface/day.
25. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject is administered IL-2 prior to vaccination.
26. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the IL-2 composition further comprises a pharmaceutical carrier.